

Amendments to the Specification

On page 1, after the title (line 1), please insert the following headings and paragraphs:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 This application is the national phase filing, under 35 U.S.C. §371, of International Application No. PCT/DK2004/000754, filed November 1, 2004, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

FEDERALLY-SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

10 Not Applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

On page 1, before line 29, please insert the following heading:

15 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 29 with the following rewritten paragraph:

20 The inventor has through certain test of thin plate candle extinguishers to some extent resembling the candle extinguishers described in the above-mentioned publications ~~realised~~ realized that an improvement of the automated candle extinguishing technique may be developed provided a different approach of causing the candle to be extinguished be deduced.

25 Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

30 The process of contacting the outer ends of the distal parts of the finger elements with the outer surface of the wick is a process in which the flexibility of the finger elements causes the distal parts to move from the contact with the outer surface of the candle into contact with the outer surface of the wick as the material of the candle is burned away and eventually, the outer ends of the distal parts of the finger elements tightly ~~contacts~~ contact the outer surface of the wick and ~~eloses~~ close off any space around the wick and in doing so ~~prevents~~ prevent the wick from transporting melted and combustible stearin or similar materials such as wax from the candle to the burning wick constituting the flame of the candle. As will be under-

stood, the turning off or extinguishing of the candle by the candle extinguisher according to the present invention is a technique involving tightly closing off the top part of the wick which burns in the flame from the reservoir below the candle extinguisher.

5 Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The candle extinguisher according to the present invention is preferably made as a unitary structure from a single thin plate material as the ring-shaped part and the flexible finger elements comprising the proximal parts and the distal parts are preferably made from one and 10 the same flexible thin plate material such as carbon steel or stainless steel or a high temperature resistant ~~plasties~~ plastic material or another metal material such as titanium, ~~aluminium~~ aluminum, copper, silver, gold or platinum or alloys thereof such as noble or semi-noble alloys. The thin plate material is preferably of a thickness of 50-500 μ m, preferably approximately 100-150 μ m for allowing the proximal parts of the finger elements to be easily bent 15 outwardly when positioning the candle extinguisher on the candle for the intentional use of the candle extinguisher.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

20 In order to obtain an adequate flexibility of the proximal parts of the finger elements, each of the proximal parts preferably [[have]] has a length at least exceeding the lengths of the distal parts such as preferably a length corresponding to approximately two times the length of the distal parts or even more.

25 Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 26 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The proximal parts of the finger elements of the candle extinguisher according to the present invention may have any appropriate size and configuration and may e.g. be ~~eonfigurated~~ configured as thin plate elements or alternatively as rectangular plate elements in combination 30 defining a circumference substantially corresponding to the circumference of the ring-shaped part. According to the presently preferred embodiment of the candle extinguisher according to the present invention, the proximal parts are substantially of a rectangular configuration

and the width of each of the proximal parts are at the most one half the length of the proximal part for providing a fairly easily flexible proximal part.

On page 6, after line 25, please insert the following heading:

5 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

10 Figs. 3a, 3b, 3c and [[4d]] 3d are schematic views illustrating a presently preferred embodiment of cutting, partly bending, rolling and bending a blank into the candle extinguisher shown in Fig. 1, and[[,]]

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

15 Figs. 4a, 4b and 4c ~~are photographs illustrating~~ illustrate the intentional use of the candle extinguisher illustrating the extinguishing of the candle by the separation of the flame from the remaining part of the candle without cutting of the burning wick part.

On page 7, after line 10, please insert the following heading:

20 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

25 In Fig. 1, a first version or embodiment of a candle extinguisher according to the present invention is shown designated the reference numeral 10 in its entirety. The candle extinguisher is made from flexible thin plate material, such as carbon steel of a thickness of 150 μ m. The candle extinguisher is, as will be described in greater details below, produced in a punching or cutting, folding and bending operation as the candle extinguisher is produced as a unitary structure from the thin plate material. As is evident from Fig. 1, the candle extinguisher 10
30 comprises at its bottom end a circumferential ring-shaped part 12 from which a total of 10 flexible finger elements extend upwardly, one of which finger elements is designated the reference numeral 14. The finger elements 14 basically comprise two parts, namely a proximal part integrally connected to the ring-shaped part 12 of the candle extinguisher and a distal

part 16, which is bent substantially perpendicularly relative to the proximal part 14. The proximal part 14 extends in coplanar relation from the ring-shaped part 14 and is separated from its adjacent or ~~neighbouring~~ neighboring finger element by a slot 18. The proximal parts 14 are of an overall rectangular configuration, whereas the distal parts 16 are of a triangular configuration having the base line of the triangle ~~eonfigurated~~ configured congruently with the upper most end of the proximal part 14.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 31 with the following rewritten paragraph:

10 It is to be ~~realised~~ realized that the terms, such as upper, lower, bottom, top, proximal and distal as used in the present context are all to be construed in the context of the intentional use of the candle extinguisher, as the candle extinguisher is intended to be used mounted on a candle which is conventionally positioned vertically and having the ring-shaped part 12 as a lower most part of the candle extinguisher.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

20 In Fig. 1, the technique of assembling the blank from which the candle extinguisher is produced is illustrated as the reference numerals 20 and 22 designate two thin metal plate flaps which are bent through perforations of the overlapping ring-shaped part for maintaining the ring-shaped part in the overall cylindrical or ring configuration, is illustrated in Fig. [[10]] 1.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

25 The candle extinguisher 10 may be produced in different sizes, such as a dimension corresponding to the diameter of the ring-shaped bottom part 12 ranging from 14mm-32mm, such as produced in distinct sizes 14mm, 22mm, 24mm and 32mm. Dependent on the diametrical size of the candle extinguisher, the height of the candle extinguisher may vary from approximately 20mm-40mm, as the height of the candle extinguisher is somewhat larger than the diameter of the candle extinguisher.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 17 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The [[slits]] slots 18 separating the finger element 14 from its adjacent or neighbouring neighboring finger element may extend to only a few mm above the lower rim of the ring-shaped part 12, as the ring-shaped part 12 merely serves the purpose of providing mechanical integrity and sufficient strength for allowing the finger elements 14 from being bent outwardly as is illustrated in Figs. 4a-4c.

5 Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 23 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The finger elements 14 are in the embodiment shown in Fig. [[10]] 1 of an overall width 10 varying from 3mm-10mm depending on the diametrical dimension of the candle extinguisher and the distal end parts 16 of the finger elements provide an overlap as is illustrated in Fig. 1 since each of the distal end parts 16 [[have]] has a length exceeding the radius of the ring-shaped part 12. Preferably, the distal end parts 16 have a length exceeding the one half diameter of the ring-shaped part 12 by 1-3mm, such as 1,5-2mm 1.5-2 mm.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 31 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In Fig. 2, a second or alternative embodiment of the candle extinguisher according to the present invention is shown designated the reference numeral 10' in its entirety. In Fig. 2, all elements or components serving the same purpose as elements or components, respectively, described above with reference to Fig. 1, however, differing geometrically from the above-described elements or components are designated the same reference numeral as used in Fig. 1, however added the marking '. As is evident from Fig. 2, the second embodiment 10' differs from the first embodiment [[1]] 10 basically in that the finger elements 14 have their proximal ends tapering from the lower end to the upper end for providing in the intentional use, as is illustrated in Fig. 4a, a somewhat crown-like appearance.

25 Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

30 In Figs. 3a, 3b, 3c and 3d, four steps of a process of producing the first and presently preferred embodiment of the candle extinguisher shown in Fig. 1 [[is]] are illustrated in which in a first process step illustrated in Fig. 3a, a blank 30 is cut or punched from a web of the thin plate material, which web is supplied from a role not shown in the drawings. The blank is

punched by means of a vertically reciprocating plunger not shown in the drawings, which is moved at a high speed, such as the speed of 1000 times/min. for producing 1000 candle extinguishers per minute.

5 Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 17 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A particular feature of the technique of producing the candle extinguisher, as is illustrated in Figs. 3a-3d relates to the ~~utilisation~~ utilization of an edge band 32 from the thin plate material web and serving as a support for the individual blanks until the candle extinguisher has been 10 ~~finalised~~ finalized from the blank and also serving as a guide and propeller during the process of manufacturing the candle extinguisher.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

15 Finally, in the step illustrated in Fig. [[4d]] 3d, the blank rolled into the circular cylindrical shape is machined for causing the distal parts 16 of the finger elements 14 to be bent into the perpendicular position in the final product as is illustrated in Fig. 1. The bending is accomplished while the blank is fixated to the mandrill 35 and generated by means of a pressing tool 37. Finally, after the bending of the distal parts 16 into the perpendicular arrangement 20 relative to the proximal parts of the finger elements 14, the product is cut from the supporting edge band 32.